

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 395

By West

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Joe Gregory for his bravery.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly of the State of Tennessee should honor those persons who through their endeavors are credit to their respective families, communities, and to the state; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding person is Mr. Joe Gregory, Nashville's WKRN-News Channel 2s photographer, who rescued a badly burned and disoriented woman and her 18-month-old daughter from their fiery apartment home; and

WHEREAS, between assignments, Mr. Gregory and WKRN reporter Lilla Marigza spotted the Crestview Apartments burning as they were driving on Thompson Place near Murfreesboro Road; they then drove to the apartments to tape news footage of the catastrophe; and

WHEREAS, as they approached, black smoke could be seen billowing into the air and it was soon evident that emergency response teams had not yet arrived; shortly thereafter, a woman was seen staggering up the staircase toward a toddler sitting near a smoke-choked door on the second floor; and

WHEREAS, without thought to life or limb, Mr. Gregory jumped out of his vehicle, without his photography gear, and "took charge" of the situation; and

WHEREAS, noting the dangerous situation, Mr. Gregory shouted down for help as he mounted the stairs; the woman's face was soot black; the skin on her fingers were scorched, and the fire had singed her hair. Beyond the smoke coming from inside her apartment, the popping sounds of the intense heat melting the contents of the apartment was audible; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gregory rescued the baby, passing the burned child to a neighbor, and with the help of another man, carried the woman to safety as the inferno raged and paramedics arrived; and

WHEREAS, quickly thinking, and not stopping at just getting the mother and daughter away from danger, he made sure to wrap a blanket around the victims to prevent the onset of shock, as they both received first- and second-degree burns and were later rushed to Vanderbilt University Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gregory served with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for his heroism on that fateful day; and

WHEREAS, Joe Gregory selflessly reacted with great bravery and ability, saying that he "never considered grabbing his camera, at least not until the paramedics arrived."; and

WHEREAS, Joe's gallantry is noted by his comment, "There isn't a picture that's worth a life"; and

WHEREAS, it is not often that a person of Mr. Joe Gregory's stature walks among us, and it is important that we honor him for his strong character and selfless action; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend WKRN-News Channel 2 photographer, Mr. Joe Gregory, for his unflagging commitment to the good people of the Nashville community, and for his bravery service in rescuing two victims from an apartment fire.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we offer our thanks to Mr. Gregory for a difficult job well done and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.